

British Provinces large quantities of dutiable goods during the present season such as Siles, teas, French and British dry goods Cigars, and various other articles. This can only be prevented by the exercise of unremitting watchfulness by the officers of the Customs and Revenue Service. Every vessel arriving from a foreign port must be bonded immediately on entering the harbor, by an officer of the Customs and the requirements of the Act of 2^d March 1779. in regard to such vessels strictly enforced in every case. Without such enforcement, it will be entirely impossible to prevent foreign goods being introduced into the United States without the payment of duties.

The charge is frequently made that there are those in custom service who can be induced by money or presents to commit violations of the law, which they are appointed to enforce, and to shut their eyes when they should be most vigilant and watchful. I would firm hope that this is an unfounded aspersion. If there be such unfaithful and treacherous men in office they are a disgrace to the service, a disgrace to their Country, and should be thrust out of the service and made objects of universal scorn and detestation. No nation can long command the respect of the world or respect itself when public officers can be successfully approached with bribes, or who have neither honor or honesty enough to deter them from defrauding the government. He who values

More than a reputation for integrity is unworthy to hold an office of any kind however humble.

You will take all possible pains to obtain information in regard to any intended evasion of the Revenue Laws in your quarter, and keep me daily advised of what may be going on.

Washington Long,
Collector
Patterson
Eastport
Main.

I am Sir
Your Obedt. Servt,
N. Sargent
Commissioner of Customs.

Since receiving the above I have received Orders to examine all passengers, trunks coming foreign, Smugglers may be attempted for Little & Grand Falls, by filling trunks with goods of so you will make sure even if it does expose the fact of your being an officer.

I have been obliged to prosecute in one case for Smuggling and for the last six weeks have made 600 miles in looking up a Smuggling party many of which will have been prosecuted. I do really wish our people would look at the State our Country is in and feel it a pleasure to pay the tax on such articles as are imposed knowing that it goes to feed and clothe our Soldiers now in the field.

If men could be allowed from bringing goods illegally into the Country, such as you have what is left.

Eastport April 30. 1864.

Mr. Richards

Dear Sir:

I have received the following instructions to wit; under date of April 20. 1864.

"I deem it my duty to say that the Department expects and requires every man in the Custom Service, to exhibit zeal, watchfulness and fidelity in the discharge of the duties assigned him. You will note and promptly report to me any lack of these qualifications in the performance of those duties on the part of any one employed under you, that proper steps may be taken to supply ~~the~~ place with a more suitable person.

On the other hand you will take care not to let zeal, fidelity and devotion to the public interest go unnoted or unrecommended. Let all who perform their duties faithfully feel that their service and merits are not unappreciated either by yourself or the Department. It is hoped that an Esprit de Corps may be established among those engaged in the Custom Service, which shall be productive of much greater efficiency in that service than has hitherto characterized it. Let all wrong be thrown from the river, and their places be supplied by earnest, faithful and efficient men.

The Department is advised that arrangements have been made and are perhaps now being carried into effect to smuggle into the United States from

April 21/64
W Long

I wish you would send me the amount of Shingle, if any, that has been manufactured on the other side of the line and who owns them. Also what there may be at the Falls.

I rec. your letter as per paper.

Very yours
W Long

April 30, 1864